

**Amendments to the Claims:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

**Listing of Claims:**

Claim 1 (**currently amended**): An isolated *Group B Streptococcus* protein or polypeptide comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 72, or a derivative or variant of said protein or polypeptide comprising a sequence having at least 50% identity to SEQ ID NO. 72, wherein said derivative or variant is able to protect against Group B *Streptococcus* challenge.

Claim 2 (withdrawn): A *Group B Streptococcus* polypeptide or peptide having a sequence selected from those described in fig. 2, or fragments or derivatives thereof.

Claim 3 (**currently amended**): Derivatives or variants of the proteins or polypeptides of claim 1 which show at least ~~50%~~ 70% identity to those proteins or polypeptides.

Claim 4 (withdrawn): A nucleic molecule comprising or consisting of a sequence which is:

- (i) any of the DNA sequences set out in figure 1 and figure 2 herein or their RNA equivalents;
- (ii) a sequence which is complementary to any of the sequences of (i);
- (iii) a sequence which codes for the same protein or polypeptide, as those sequences of (i) or (ii);
- (iv) a sequence which shows substantial identity with any of those of (i), (ii) and (iii);  
or
- (v) a sequence which codes for a derivative, or fragment of a nucleic acid molecule shown in figure 1 or figure 2.

Claim 5 (withdrawn): A vector comprising DNA encoding for the expression of any one or more proteins, polypeptides, peptides, fragments or derivatives thereof, as claimed in claims 1 to 3.

Claim 6 (withdrawn): A vector as claimed in claim 5 further comprising DNA encoding any one or more of the following: promoters, enhancers, signal sequences, leader sequences, translation start and stop signals, DNA stability controlling regions, or a fusion partner.

Claim 7 (withdrawn): The use of a vector as claimed in claims 5 and 6 in the transformation or transfection of a prokaryotic or eukaryotic host.

Claim 8 (withdrawn): A host cell suitable for the transformation of vector as claimed in claims 5 and 6.

Claim 9 (withdrawn): An antibody, an affibody, or a derivative thereof which binds to one or more of the proteins, polypeptides, peptides, fragments or derivatives thereof, as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 3.

Claim 10 (previously presented): An immunogenic composition comprising one or more of the proteins or polypeptides of claim 1, or derivatives or variants of claim 3.

Claim 11 (previously presented): An immunogenic composition as claimed in claim 10 which is a vaccine.

Claim 12 (withdrawn): Use of an immunogenic composition as claimed in claim 10 in the preparation of a medicament for the treatment or prophylaxis of *Group B Streptococcus* infection.

Claim 13 (withdrawn): A method of detection of *Group B Streptococcus* which comprises the step of bringing into contact a sample to be tested with at least one antibody, affibody, or a derivative thereof, as described therein.

Claim 14 (withdrawn): A method of detection of *Group B Streptococcus* which comprises the step of bringing into contact a sample to be tested with at least one protein, polypeptide, peptide fragments or derivatives as described herein.

Claim 15 (withdrawn): A method of detection of *Group B Streptococcus* which comprises the step of bringing into contact a sample to be tested with at least one nucleic acid molecule as described herein.

Claim 16 (withdrawn): A kit for the detection of *Group B Streptococcus* comprising at least one antibody, affibody, or derivatives thereof as claimed in claim 9.

Claim 17 (previously presented): A kit for the detection of *Group B Streptococcus* comprising at least one *Group B Streptococcus* protein or polypeptide of claim 1 or derivative or variant of claim 3.

Claim 18 (withdrawn): A kit for the detection of *Group B Streptococcus* comprising at least one nucleic acid molecule as claimed in claim 4.

Claim 19 (withdrawn): A method of screening for DNA encoding bacterial cell envelope associated or surface antigens in gram positive bacteria comprising the steps of:

- combining a reporter vector including the nucleotide sequence encoding the mature from of the staphylococcus nuclease gene and an upstream promoter region with DNA from a gram positive bacteria.

- transforming the resultant vector into *Lactococcus lactis* cells.

- assaying the secretion of staphylococcus nuclease protein in the transformed cells.

Claim 20 (withdrawn): A method as claimed in claim 19 wherein the report vector is one of the pTREP1-*nuc* vectors shown in figure 4.

Claim 21 (withdrawn): A method as claimed in claim 19 or claim 20 wherein the gram positive bacteria is *Group B Streptococcus*, *Streptococcus Pneumoniae*, *Staphylococcus aureus* or *pathogenic group A streptococci*.

Claim 22 (withdrawn): A vector as shown in figure 4 for use in screening for DNA encoding bacterial cell envelope associated or secreted in gram positive bacteria.

Claim 23 (withdrawn): A method of determining whether a protein, polypeptide, peptide, fragment or derivative thereof as claimed in claims 1 to 3 represents a potential anti-microbial target which comprises inactivating said protein and determining whether *Group B Streptococcus* is still viable.

Claim 24 (new): Derivatives or variants of the proteins or polypeptides of claim 1 which show at least 90% identity to those proteins or polypeptides.